GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
REPORT ON DEFORESTATION IN DELHI
VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Delhi is likely to become a desert by 2021 as per a study report conducted by the Tata Energy Research Institute published in the Hindustan Times dated June 2, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/ proposed to be taken to prevent large scale deforestation in Delhi?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) No, Sir. The State of EnvironmentReport for Delhi, 2001 prepared by the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI)for Department of Environment, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi indicates thatthe forest cover of Delhi has increased from 15 sq. km. in 1987 to 88 sq. km in 1999 as per assessment of Forest Survey of India.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Although encroachments in the ridge forests have resulted in biodiversity degradation, there is an overall increasing trend in the status of vegetation and forest cover in Delhi. Afforestation efforts of Delhi Government since 1981-83 have yielded results in increasing forest/ tree cover and there is no reason to believe that by 2021 Delhi would be a desert. The Government of Delhi has prepared an Action Planfor large scale afforestation and greening of Delhi to further increase the forest/tree cover which serves as the city`s green lung.